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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 1.8 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 12,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Semper paratus for the next shutdown

With just hours to spare, President Biden signed legislation Sept. 30 averting yet another government shutdown. For now.

That we came so close should alarm all Americans, but The American Legion is especially concerned. We remember well what happened during the last shutdown, and the unfinished work of Congress to mitigate the hardship such an event still poses for one branch of the U.S. military.

Because the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security rather than the Department of Defense, its funding is always at risk during budget showdowns. In 2019, The American Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation provided more than \$1 million in Temporary Financial Assistance grants to Coast Guard families when the government stopped their salaries. They retroactively received their pay, but we told them to keep the grants.

The uncertainty and stress these families faced was unacceptable then and now. As politicians bickered, more than 40,000 Coast Guardsmen continued to defend our shores, perform search-and-rescue missions and support America's worldwide military commitments – even as they wondered how they would make their car payments, pay rent and feed their families.

Budget disputes are inevitable, like death and taxes. But government shutdowns affect multiple agencies and hundreds of thousands of federal workers. There have been 21 shutdowns since 1976. When they occur, Congress should recognize that our national security remains top priority, and that starts with paying the men and women of our all-volunteer force.

The Pay Our Coast Guard Act was introduced by both the Senate and House in the 116th Congress. Sadly, it did not pass. We are calling for the 117th Congress to put similar legislation on the president's desk for him to sign.

In 2019, the Coast Guard did its job, as did The American Legion. Can we now count on Congress and the White House to do the same?

Paul E. Dillard

THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

Veterans Strengthening America

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A decade on, Koutz champions Operation Comfort Warriors program

As The American Legion's 2012-2013 national commander, James E. Koutz raised more than \$1 million for the organization's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program. By making it his primary fundraising project, Koutz put OCW on the front burner for departments, districts, posts and communities nationwide, resulting in a huge increase in donations and assistance requests from injured and ill veterans.

Nearly 10 years later, Koutz's commitment to the program is as strong as ever. "We're always going to have injured troops and veterans who need help," he says. "VA hospitals are not going to buy them comfort items. But The American Legion can."

From kayaks and fishing equipment to pool tables and computers, OCW provides "nonessentials" and other recreational items for wounded U.S. servicemembers and veterans, whether they are recovering in military hospitals, transition units, VA medical centers or at home. As national commander, Koutz traveled to warrior transition units, asking what injured or ill troops needed to "make them comfortable, try to get them rehabilitated faster. (And the requests of needed items) just went from there."

OCW relies on donations to continue providing grants. Fundraising efforts have stayed strong over the years, in large part because of Koutz and his advocacy for the program. "There's been a lot of departments that have really rallied behind OCW," he says. "Certain posts and districts fundraise every year for OCW because they believe in it."

legion.org/ocw



Photo by Angelo Merendino

A veteran's plea for others to get vaccinated

To my fellow veterans - I hear a lot about how many of you are resisting the COVID-19 vaccine. I see veterans refusing to wear the most basic medical defense, a mask, in our VA hospital.

Frankly, I am appalled as well as frightened.

Like many of you, I wear the scars of serving in combat. Most, in my case, are physical. Worse, they put me in the high-risk category for catching, well, virtually anything. Living with one functional lung and serious cardiac challenges as the result of defoliants in South Vietnam, I am one of those with serious comorbidities that mean exposure to SARS-CoV-2 would be serious, if not deadly. Where is that risk greatest for me?

The very facility I depend upon to sustain myself: our VA hospital, where I am among the largest number of people. That is where I depend on you to look out for me and all our veteran brothers and sisters.

You do that by doing the very things you did during your military service, no questions asked, whether in Vietnam, Korea or the desert.

You took your job seriously, you looked out for the weakest among us, you got your vaccinations, and you wore the prescribed combat uniform, along with all the equipment you needed to stay safe and to protect your fellow soldiers. Today, you need to step up and do the same.

John T. Hoffman, Black Mountain, N.C.

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Santa's still coming to town

For nearly a century, children in a remote mountain valley in central Idaho have known that Santa not only will come to town on Christmas morning, but to their front doors with a gift.

Altruistic elves at Joe Nowacki American Legion Post 16 started the tradition in 1925, five years after it was chartered in Mackay, a town of 500 surrounded by snow-covered mountains.

Santa rides on the back of a fire truck with siren blaring to deliver goodies from a bag brimming with candy, peanuts and oranges.

"The looks on some kids' faces is unforgettable," says Rick Hanni, post commander and the jolly old elf himself for 16 years. "These days, kids get so many presents, but I think they still appreciate what our Santa gives them."

Hanni recalls the excitement of Santa's candy deliveries when he was a boy. "In our neighborhood, there were about 30 kids. We all ran to one street corner to wait. Back then, it was a really big deal to get candy because most families didn't buy it often."

Walt Hamby, who has played Santa since 2019, says it's a privilege to be part of the post's tradition. "The smiles on kids' faces make me smile, especially when they bring a plate of cookies and candy out to you," he says.

A few days before Christmas, volunteers of the 65-member post form an assembly line to fill the sacks, taking about two to three hours. As they work, they wonder if the weather will be nasty or nice on Christmas Day - not that a pesky blizzard could stop the tradition.

"One year it snowed 4 feet on Christmas Eve," Hanni says. "That Christmas, we couldn't get around on the fire truck. We called a local rancher who let us use his sleigh and horses. That's what's nice about a small town: you can count on people for help."

Submitted by Dianna Troyer, Pocatello, Idaho



Photo by Judy Malkiewicz



Photo by Abel Uribe

"We really want to honor Jason's legacy because he is one of our Latino community heroes. This is a perfect example of someone who was doing the right thing, taking the right steps, who was going to make an impact in his community."

Marcos Torres, commander of **Staff Sgt. Jason Vazquez Post 939 in Chicago**, which celebrated its first anniversary Oct. 16. Vazquez, who died in Afghanistan in 2008, planned to become a police officer. Watch a video about Post 939 at legion.org/magazine/videos.

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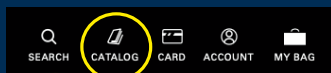
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Be it resolved,

That The American Legion petition the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide the quality manufactured casket flag that the laws and regulations of the United States specify and that the honorable veterans of the United States Armed Forces rightfully deserve, to be presented with final honors.

Passed, American Legion National Executive Committee Fall Meeting, Oct. 6-7, 2021

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Amount awarded to 14 nonprofits by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for 2022. Recipients include the Adoption Exchange Association of Linthicum, Md., the National Braille Press of Boston and the National Children's Cancer Society of St. Louis. Learn about all the recipients, and the grant process, at cwf-inc.org.

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

100 HOURS OF CALLS

In June, the chair of the Marketing Committee at American Legion Post 90 in Cape Coral, Fla., initiated a second Buddy Check program with the help of three committee members and six E-Committee members.

In all, we called and emailed 47% of 839 active members. We devoted approximately 100 hours to calling (20 more than in 2020), and determined that weekends were the best time. The exciting thing about this year's program was that the percentage of veterans reached was higher than last year - 36% to 15% - and the actual number reached increased despite dialing fewer numbers. We suspect the increase was probably due to a greater willingness to pick up the phone post-COVID, and the persistence of some of our E-Committee callers.

Submitted by Ted Clark, Post 90 public relations officer



Download a kit to help veterans in your community:
legion.org/buddycheck

"We knew he was in the war, we knew he was a prisoner of war, but anything other than that was just uncharted territory ... it was like meeting the most impactful person in my life for the first time."

Documentary filmmaker Mark Pedri, a member of **Sons of The American Legion Squadron 24 in Rock Springs, Wyo.**, who premiered "Dear Sirs," a film about his grandfather Silvio Pedri's experiences in World War II, at **Archie Hay Post 24** on Sept. 25. Posts interested in screening it in their communities or learning more can go to dearsirsfilm.com.

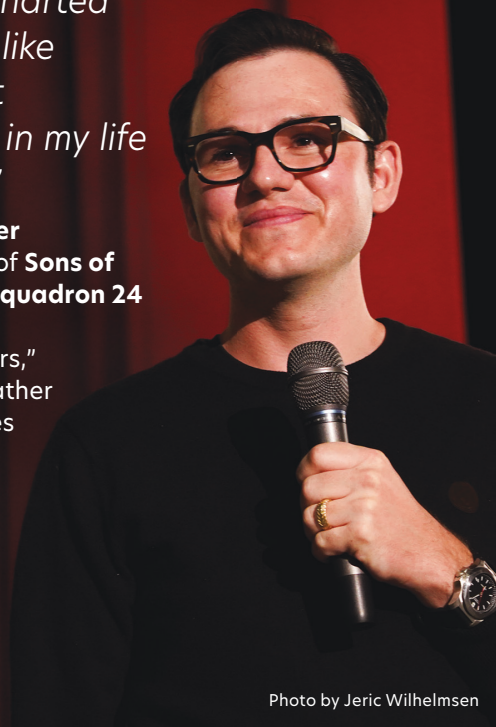


Photo by Jeric Wilhelmsen

Now, THIS is a Knife!

This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

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— J., La Crescent, MN



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO



Top 10 most popular Tango Alpha Lima episodes

The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast recently released its 100th episode. As of late October, these are the most downloaded episodes since the podcast's launch in 2020.

- ▶ **1 Episode 43:** Marine Corps combat veteran and Legionnaire Theresa Larson discusses Movement Rx, her movement therapy practice.
- ▶ **2 Episode 8:** The co-hosts discuss race relations in America, renaming military bases and Green Berets playing video games.
- ▶ **3 Episode 58:** The co-hosts analyze the quick reaction of the American Legion Department of Ohio after a retired lieutenant colonel's mic was cut during his Memorial Day speech about the role of freed slaves in honoring fallen soldiers.
- ▶ **4 Episode 16 - 9/11 series:** Air Force Lt. Col. Kim Campbell discusses piloting her A-10 Thunderbolt back to base after taking heavy anti-aircraft artillery damage over Baghdad in 2003.
- ▶ **5 Episode 6 - 9/11 series:** Robert Douglas talks about his experiences as an air traffic controller at Cleveland Center, which is responsible for airspace over Ohio and western Pennsylvania - including the route flown by United Flight 93.
- ▶ **6 Episode 1 - 9/11 series:** American Legion Past National Commander Ric Santos relives the day he was supposed to give testimony to Congress.
- ▶ **7 Episode 8 - 9/11 series:** Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Joe Lea recalls piloting his United Airlines Airbus to safety at Los Angeles International Airport, one of the last passenger planes to land before air travel shut down.
- ▶ **8 Episode 39:** Former FBI agent and Navy intelligence officer Naveed Jamali shares his experience as a Russian double agent.
- ▶ **9 Episode 59:** Marine Corps veteran Matt Disher offers advice on transitioning out of the military, translating military experience to careers in the civilian world and more.
- ▶ **10 Episode 3 - 9/11 series:** Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Clifford Lovejoy recounts his harrowing escape from the Pentagon.

All episodes are available at legion.org/tangoalphalima. Download and listen to them, or watch the YouTube versions.

THE PLAYLIST

*American Legion videos you
don't want to miss.*



Welcome home, Afghanistan veterans

Newberry, Fla., Post 149 honors the service of war veterans with a parade, concert and expo to offer available American Legion resources.

Holiday greetings from the commander

National Commander Paul E. Dillard wishes everyone a happy, safe holiday season and urges us to remember U.S. servicemembers on duty far from home.

'Dear Sirs' premieres at Wyoming post

World War II POW's little-known story revealed in grandson's documentary film.

Commander's address to the NEC

Fall Meetings begin with a warning that Coast Guard personnel are still vulnerable to government shutdown pay delays.

Visit legion.org/magazine/videos or subscribe to The American Legion's YouTube channel.



Photo courtesy Bob Munhall

7,049

U.S. flags arranged at the new Patriotic Park Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., near the site of the Flight 93 Memorial. Each flag, placed by American Legion Post 911 and community members, represents a casualty in the war on terrorism.

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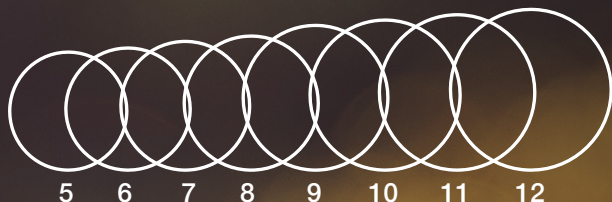
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HEALTH & FITNESS

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Holiday gift guide



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Garmin Venu 2S (\$399) ▶

For techies looking for a luxurious GPS smartwatch with advanced health monitoring and fitness features to help better understand what's going on inside their bodies, with customized settings. garmin.com



HYDRATION

Soda Stream (\$70) ▶

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sodastream.com

◀ S'well Aluminum Water Bottle (\$25 to \$45)

For those who (or who need to) take hydration seriously. It's the healthier and more environmentally conscious version of a plastic water bottle. swell.com



PROTEIN

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For anyone seeking high-quality protein that actually satisfies a sweet tooth, with only 1 gram of sugar.

premierprotein.com

◀ Naked Nutrition protein powders

(\$15 to \$95 for 1-lb. to 5-lb. tubs)

For those looking to increase their protein intake for weight loss or mass gain, with clean ingredients, multiple vegan options and delicious flavors.

nakednutrition.com

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Holiday gift guide

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For gymgoers looking to add an extra burn in their routine.

fitsimplify.com



GOFLYSHINE Stationary Bike (\$150 to \$170)

For those wanting more daily movement with minimal impact on joints. amazon.com

SUNSCREEN

▲ EltaMD Mineral Sunscreen Spray SPF 45 (\$34/6 ounces)

For those looking for a dermatologist-recommended mineral sunscreen that won't leave a white cast on their skin.

eltamd.com

Sun Bum Mineral Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 (\$15/3 ounces)

For sun soakers on a budget.

sunbum.com

VITAMINS

NatureMade Multivitamin + Omega-3 Gummies (\$16/80 count)

For those who hate swallowing pills and are looking for a multivitamin and omega in one dose. naturemade.com

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OUTSTANDING INAUGURAL YEAR FOR LEGION RACING



Photo by Ben Mikesell

INDYCAR program drives national media audiences, membership, contributions and more in historic first year with Chip Ganassi Racing.

The American Legion roared into living rooms, past fan-filled stands and onto the national stage in 2021, the first year of an alliance with Chip Ganassi Racing and the NTT INDYCAR Series. Star drivers Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan raced the Legion-branded 48 car on road courses and ovals from St. Petersburg, Fla., to Portland, Ore., between mid-April and late September. And 2021 series champion Alex Palou drove the Legion-themed 10 car four times on his way to winning it all.

Millions watched the Legion racers during the season, but the alliance generated more than national TV coverage, valued at over \$13.9 million. It gave The American Legion a massive platform to address one of its most serious concerns: the high rate of veteran suicide.

At a press conference May 27 team owner Chip Ganassi made an announcement “that I think will go down in history,” he said. “They’re going to say,

APRIL

8 Chip Ganassi Racing unveils a sleek red, white and blue American Legion paint scheme for 2021.

14 Seven-time NASCAR champ Jimmie Johnson makes his long-awaited INDYCAR debut in the Legion-sponsored 48 car.

MAY

12 Chip Ganassi Racing announces that 24-year-old rising star Alex Palou will use the Legion paint scheme on the No. 10 car, in the GMR Grand Prix in Indianapolis and future races; he takes third in the event.

18 The American Legion works with Chip Ganassi Racing to honor fallen Medal of Honor recipient Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham in the paint scheme of the 48 car at

the Indianapolis 500 and the No. 1 of NASCAR driver Kurt Busch in the Coca-Cola 600 over Memorial Day weekend.

27 A press conference at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway announces the “mission focus” of the alliance, to reduce and prevent suicide among veterans.

30 Kanaan races the 48 car to a 10th-place finish in the Indianapolis 500.



‘That was started at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Memorial Day weekend’ ... We need to stop veterans from taking their own lives when they come home.”

“We’re ready to fight this,” Kanaan added. “We’re ready to help The American Legion.”

Thus launched an ongoing mission focus to raise awareness and provide solutions to help veterans at risk.

The Chip Ganassi Racing relationship was announced Dec. 1, 2020, fueling \$118,500 in Giving Tuesday donations. A \$2 million contribution from Veterans United Home Loans followed in May to help The American Legion support veterans, military personnel and children in need.

As the season progressed, American Legion departments got behind the opportunity with special events, including membership drives, to coincide with races in their states. Johnson, Kanaan and Ganassi spoke at the 102nd National Convention about what they had learned representing veterans through The American Legion.

Johnson, a seven-time NASCAR champ whose move to INDYCAR made him one of the year’s most watched figures in sports, said understanding the suicide issue from The American Legion “was a big education. And then to be able to help get that word out ... It’s something I’m very proud to be a part of.” He also produced two ads that aired nationally on NBC and NBC Sports, promoting the Legion and its mission focus.

“Our involvement in racing has turned out to be much more than I anticipated,” American Legion Past National Commander David K. Rehbein said at a June race in Detroit. “If we can really make that connection with the suicide-prevention program in this country, we can do a lot of great things. I think this is an excellent investment.”

legion.org/48

BY THE NUMBERS

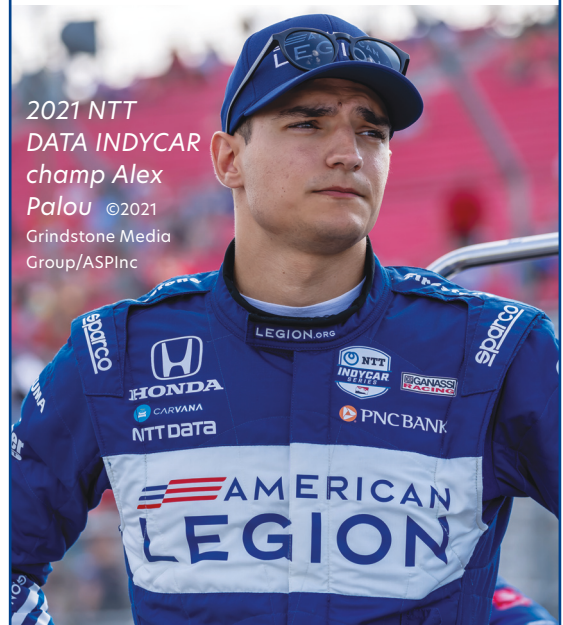
16 Races in which the American Legion brand appeared on Chip Ganassi Racing cars in 2021

6 Races in which the entire livery of the car was decked out in American Legion branding and colors, including the Indianapolis 500

\$13.9M Media value for The American Legion during the racing season, including coverage on NBC, NBC Sports and Peacock TV

2 Dedicated American Legion commercials produced and aired during all 16 races on NBC and NBC Sports

4 Membership drives conducted on race weekends, in Wisconsin, Ohio, Oregon and California



2021 NTT
DATA INDYCAR
champ Alex
Palou ©2021
Grindstone Media
Group/ASPlnc

JUNE

18 Wisconsin Legionnaires activate a team and sign up new members in advance of the Road America race in Sheboygan, Wis., which Palou wins.

JULY

4 American Legion Past National Commander Dan Dellinger is grand marshal for the Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course race.

AUGUST

6 Korean War Legionnaire Jim Markham crosses the Korean War Memorial Bridge over the Cumberland River at 120 mph in a pace car driven by four-time INDYCAR champ Dario Franchitti heading into the Big Machine Music City Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER

12 The Oregon American Legion Family activates a membership team for the Grand Prix of Oregon in Portland.

26 Palou invites Legionnaires to the podium for his championship celebration and thanks The American Legion for supporting him.



Our Patchwork Public Health System

Contentiousness, lack of coordination during COVID-19 suggest America is not ready for the next crisis.

BY ALAN GREENBLATT
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL GLENWOOD

Robert Wachter enjoys some of the trappings of contemporary fame. He hosts a popular podcast and has nearly 200,000 followers on Twitter. It's a fairly high profile for a guy whose day job is chairing the department of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. His minor dose of celebrity is due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has left the public hungry for reliable medical advice. "I'm not trying to combat misinformation," Wachter says. "I'm just trying to share information."

The number of competing voices and the desire for guidance was prompted by a lack of consensus among politicians about the nature of the challenge and how best to meet it. Unlike some European countries, the United States does not have a single, centralized agency in charge of public health. Instead, there's an alphabet soup of federal agencies with varying roles when it comes to health. There are also separate health departments in every state, along with 3,000 more at the local level.

It's an uneven system, with autonomy and different responsibilities at each level. Over the past year, these different players have not all pulled in the same direction. Your governor might have taken a completely different approach to COVID-19, and questions such as mask mandates and business closures, than the governor next door.

"The public health system is not a single, well-integrated system," says John Auerbach, former president of the Trust for America's Health, a nonprofit that promotes public health policies. "There isn't a consistent standard

across the country so that you can say, regardless of where you live, here's how the public health system will affect you."

Defining the difference between health care and public health is sometimes elusive, because the fields have many overlapping purposes. Broadly speaking, health care is about treating individuals for specific illnesses and injuries. It's as simple as seeing a doctor when you're sick. Public health is broader. It's devoted to the health of populations at large and focuses mostly on prevention rather than treatment, whether that's blocking the spread of infectious diseases, or discouraging teen pregnancies or addiction.

The federal government primarily involves itself in paying for care of individuals through programs such as Medicare and Medicaid and hospitals run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. "VA provides direct health care – the traditional model of seeing a provider, getting labs or radiology work," says Jane Kim, VA's chief consultant for preventive medicine. "We also have a public health approach, really a population-level approach, to health care. We know who our population is, know their needs as a demographic group and look at them as a whole."

When it comes to

\$280 million

Amount state health agencies received in federal funding in 2015. Four out of five states depend on federal sources for more than 40% of their funding.

prevention, the federal approach is highly balkanized. Consider food safety. Inspection of seafood falls under the authority of the Food and Drug Administration – unless it’s farmed catfish, in which case the job goes to the Agriculture Department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. There are similar divisions between processed eggs and fresh eggs, and on down the list. It’s a mess and just one small example of how responsibility for treatment and research, and all the other aspects of health, are kept separate within the federal government.

In terms of public health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the nation’s lead agency, but it’s primarily devoted to research and leaves most of the work of dealing with the public to state and local departments. It’s kind of like the FBI, with investigators who take over when problems cross state lines, but with far less staffing and certainly less of a public presence than sheriff’s offices and police departments. When it comes to health, however, departments around the country vary greatly in size and capacity. Cities such as San Francisco and San Antonio employ thousands, but many jurisdictions don’t field even a single full-time employee.

There was a time when public health drew far more attention, when infectious diseases such as cholera, yellow fever and diphtheria were major killers. They’ve receded over the past century, with noncommunicable conditions such as cancer and heart disease now the leading causes of death. As a result, only 3% of overall health-care spending in the United States is devoted to public health.

It’s like having a fish tank. You can spend as

55 cents

Amount spent in the United States on public health and social services for every \$1 spent on health care

\$57.2 billion

Supplemental funding for the CDC in response to the coronavirus pandemic

23%

Share of state health agencies providing direct support for veterans, military personnel and their families

much money as you want on exotic fish, but if you don’t keep the tank clean and change the water, they aren’t going to last long. “We spend about 97 cents of our dollar on the fish and 3 cents on the water,” says Brian Castrucci, president of the de Beaumont Foundation, which supports public health initiatives.

Public health in the United States has always been a patchwork. The first health departments were started at the municipal level, in response

to local disease outbreaks. The federal government didn’t get seriously involved until 1946, with the creation of what’s now the CDC, which grew out of anti-malaria efforts during World War II.

The CDC’s very name reflects a fragmented approach, with separate centers devoted to birth defects, injury prevention, immunization, sexually transmitted diseases and so on. Local health departments get much of their funding from the federal government, but the money is mostly tied to specific problems that have received political attention, such as obesity or opioid addiction. With the money carefully earmarked, it can’t be shifted elsewhere, even if there’s an emergency.

People in public health often complain that you don’t tear down the fire department if there hasn’t been a fire for a while, but that’s what happens in their field. Funding comes rushing in to respond to a particular crisis, but once it recedes there aren’t consistent sources of money to plan and prepare for future problems. After the 9/11 attacks, the public health system was awash with money to deal with disasters, but that funding wasn’t transferable to broader health efforts and wasn’t maintained.

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*Methodology: Phone surveys at regular intervals with general veterans affairs (VA) population of mixed diagnoses, including those with COPD, bronchiectasis (BE) and assorted neuromuscular disorders using the InCourage system. Data collection began in 2019. As of 9/30/2020, 323 veterans completed the baseline survey; 160 patients in 1-month cohort; 128 in 3-month cohort; 98 in 6-month cohort; 28 patients in 12-month cohort.

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Heading into the pandemic, funding for the federal-state Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program had dropped by a third since 2002, not counting inflation. The federal Hospital Preparedness Program had been cut in half. CDC funding had been flat for years and, since the Great Recession, state and local health departments had shed 60,000 jobs.

If funding was an issue coming into the pandemic, coordination became a problem as soon as the virus struck. During a crisis, state and local health departments typically turn to the CDC for guidance. The CDC sets the overall strategy and takes the lead on public messaging, often holding news conferences on an almost daily basis. That was the approach during recent outbreaks such as Ebola and Zika.

“For the United States, the CDC is the lead agency,” Kim says. “It’s rare and exceptional that VA goes out ahead of the CDC on anything.”

That model wasn’t followed at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. In place of the CDC, the White House under President Donald Trump took the lead. He often turned to doctors serving on a coronavirus task force for advice and statements, but not officials from the CDC, who were largely sidelined. That led to some mismatches of expertise and public profile.

Anthony Fauci, the long-term head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, became a folk hero to some, while being considered a villain by others. But his main role is funding research – the lab and bench work that finds cures and treatment – not being a spokesman for public health during a fast-moving crisis.

“Dr. Fauci is an expert in research,” Auerbach says, “but he would be the first to say he’s not

16%
Share of local health departments with fewer than five employees

46%
Cut in funding of CDC’s Hospital Preparedness Program from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2021

the public health leader for the country.”

Fauci is the most prominent example, but plenty of people have stepped out of their lanes lately, from economists offering epidemiological theories to your cousin sending you the latest misinformation via Facebook.

“Unfortunately, we have been in a situation where almost every individual has to weigh the messages they’re

hearing,” says Chrissie Juliano, executive director of the Big Cities Health Coalition, a consortium of the largest local health departments.

Under President Biden, the CDC has again been given the lead on coronavirus messaging. The agency has long been considered the gold standard when it comes to public health, setting the template for similar agencies around the world, but it’s not flawless. The CDC received intense criticism last spring when it abruptly switched its recommendations on masking.

Yet it remains the agency most health-care professionals turn to for advice. Despite acute partisan differences during the pandemic, the CDC still generally polls well with the public, who also tend to respect their local health departments while trusting their own doctors the most when it comes to health information.

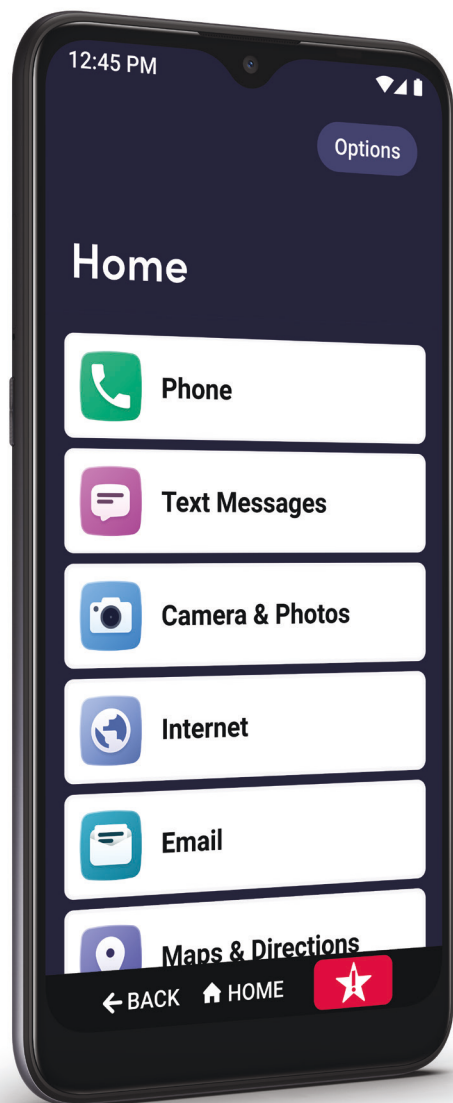
Still, when the right way to go is hotly contested at the national or state levels, any messaging at the local level can get drowned out. And during earlier pandemics, scientists did not have to contend with misinformation spreading rapidly through social media. The hit-and-miss nature of the coronavirus – deadly to some, unnoticed by others – has fueled confusion in a way that hasn’t been true of other diseases.

Someone might have an aunt who smoked all her life but never got cancer, Castrucci says, but you wouldn’t accept her advice that smoking is

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harmless. The same hasn't been true about the coronavirus. "Go on social, you'll find people who'll tell you that this is a hoax," he says. "This is really the first time that, much more universally, you are confronting science with the thing the guy who barely graduated high school said on Facebook."

The pandemic is still raging. It's likely that more people will die due to COVID-19 this year, on a global basis, than in 2020. The brief window of normalcy opened by vaccination in the late spring closed over the summer due to the Delta variant. But all plagues eventually end. As the pandemic recedes as the nation's dominant concern, how well is the public health system prepared for the next crisis?

There are already signs that other public health priorities have been neglected, with everyone running full tilt to deal with COVID-19. Deaths from drug overdoses have increased, while certain types of sexually transmitted diseases are also on the rise. Immunizations for other diseases dropped off, while cancer screenings and other routine preventive care was neglected.

Over the longer term, people in public health are worried about the damage done to their profession by the contentiousness of the pandemic. The types of disputes that have occurred over the past year – individual liberty versus the common good, balancing health against the needs of commerce – have been recurring themes during outbreaks throughout the nation's history. There's always some pushback against health restrictions, but things have been particularly intense during this

pandemic. It's not clear whether there will be lingering partisan divisions and distrust regarding the next

outbreak of, say, hepatitis, but there could be.

Beyond that, public

42.4%

U.S. adult obesity rate, up 26% since 2008

156,242

Americans who died due to alcohol, drugs or suicide in 2019 – a record high

health officials are worried they'll continue to suffer through the same boom-and-bust cycles they've experienced with past crises. Billions are flowing out of Washington now, but the money is tailored to COVID response. That's as it should be, but the model of throwing money at specific diseases doesn't help health departments prepare for the next, unexpected challenge. "You can't rebuild the system with one-time money," Juliano says, "and you can't constantly be prepared for the next emergency when you're still paying for the last one."

Like anyone seeking tax dollars, people in public health always want more. Still, it's clear that funding by crisis is not a good strategy when it comes to long-term planning and preparation. A police department might have only a couple of broad line items in its budget – policing and training – but public health departments have to keep track of funds specified for dozens of different purposes. This is a bureaucratic issue, but using money specified just for tobacco prevention or diabetes means they end up not having money to devote to general purposes, such as upgrading technology. That's why they're still relying on faxes and emailed spreadsheets to keep track of coronavirus caseloads, which has created delays and led to complaints about inaccurate information.

Before the pandemic, Auerbach was part of a task force that examined how much money was really needed to build up the public health system. The figure they arrived at – \$4.5 billion more per year, given to the CDC to spread to state and local health departments – sounded pie-in-the-sky at the time, he recalls. Put up against the trillions spent dealing with the coronavirus and its repercussions, however, it sounds like a bargain.

There's a bill in Congress based on the task force's recommendation, but it's not clear whether it will gain traction. Everything about the future remains up in the air, while the pandemic remains a significant domestic killer. 🌿

Alan Greenblatt is a senior staff writer with Governing.

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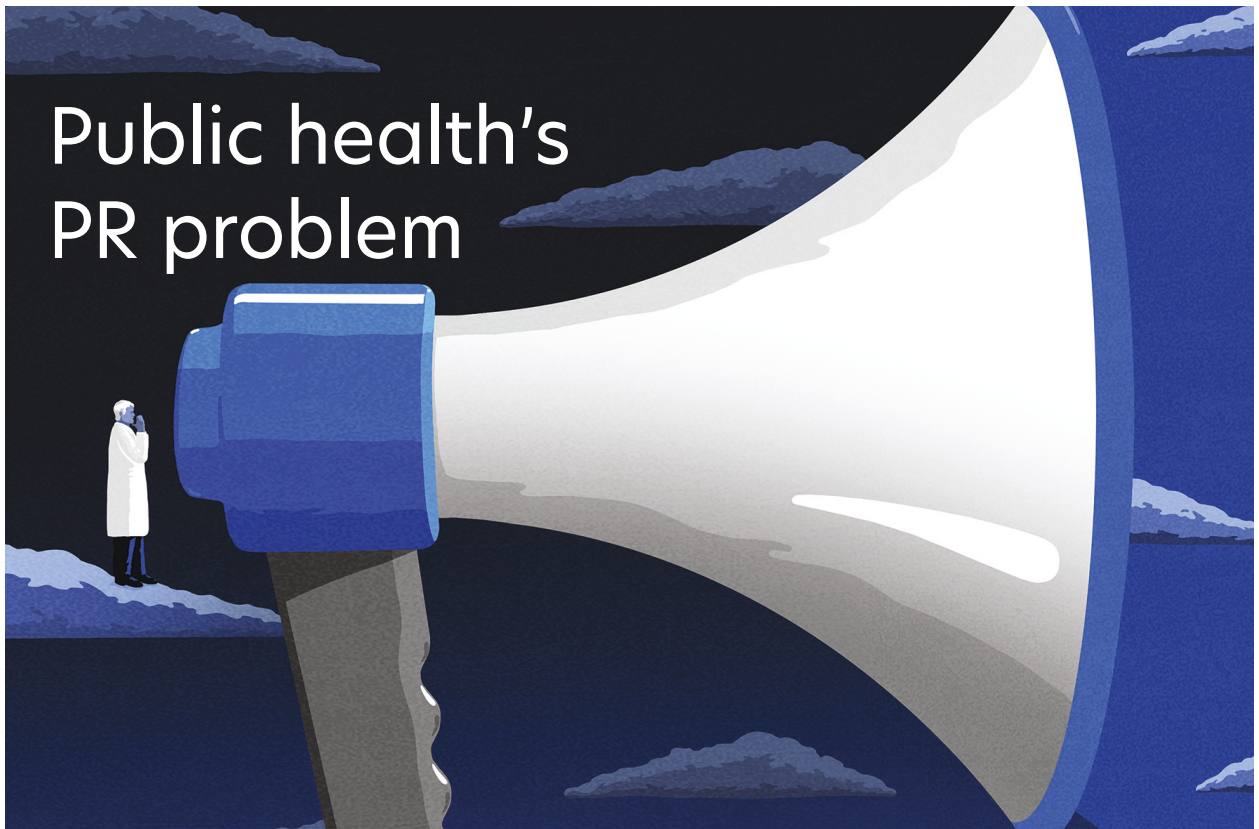
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Public health's PR problem



When the 20th century began, the leading causes of death in the United States were all infectious diseases: pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis, gastrointestinal infections and diphtheria. No one worries much about diphtheria anymore, or cholera or yellow fever or other infectious diseases that triggered terror and caused death throughout the 19th century. Improvements in sanitation, antibiotics and vaccinations have all limited their spread.

Life expectancy at birth has increased by more than three full decades of life, from 47.3 years in 1900 to more than 77.8 today. Now the leading causes of death are all noncommunicable problems, such as heart disease, cancer and accidents. That is, they were, until COVID-19 became one of the country's leading killers.

To some extent, public health has been a victim of its own success. Over the past century, the focus of American health care has shifted from public health – which is concerned with the overall well-being of the community – to treating individuals. As a result, public health is always a low priority, until it's the highest possible priority.

At the dawn of the 20th century, the lived experience of coping with contagion led to wide support for public health. Germ theory made scientists more aware of the role of bacteria and viruses and gave them a firmer empirical basis for taking action such as draining swamps.

In 1921, Congress put the U.S. Public Health Service – which had long held limited responsibility for monitoring ports of entry – in charge of sending grant money to states, establishing the pattern of the federal government funding states in support of Washington's own health priorities. States, cities and counties grew increasingly dependent on federal sources to support their health budgets. When federal funding dries up, they cut. Some 60,000 positions were eliminated between the Great Recession and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of public health's historical purviews, such as clean air and water, have long since shifted to environmental agencies that aren't concerned primarily with health effects. Lucrative treatment of individuals for noncommunicable diseases in hospitals and clinics shifted resources within the medical field away from the sort of community treatment that was common during public health's heyday.

In short, there are many forces pushing against public health. It has an inherent public relations problem. When it's successful, people don't notice. It's always hard to prove a negative. Saying that a particular program or approach saved X number of lives is never felt as viscerally as lives being lost. Prevention may be worth a pound of cure, but it's less of a priority than treatment.



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A brief history of vaccine resistance

The idea of universal vaccination has always met with resistance.

In 1796, Edward Jenner developed the smallpox vaccine, which over the next quarter-century cut the death rate from the disease in half. In 1867, the British government passed a law making the smallpox vaccine compulsory under penalty of fines and possible imprisonment. Mandatory vaccination then spawned the first anti-vaccine movement.

With the advent of the polio vaccine during the 1950s, there was in fact real and demonstrated harm. A small pharmaceutical company called Cutter Laboratories failed to fully deactivate the virus, leading to 70,000 mild cases of polio and 10 deaths. It was one of the worst biological disasters in U.S. history. Yet demand for the vaccine from other manufacturers did not abate. More recently there has been concern about thimerosal, a preservative that contained mercury and was used in some childhood vaccines. Studies showed thimerosal to be safe and not linked to autism, but it has not been used in childhood vaccines since 2001 due to parental concerns.

In 1998, a study purported to show a link between the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism. That study was withdrawn in

2010 and has been refuted by numerous other studies, but it helped fuel skepticism and even downright hostility to vaccines – particularly MMR. There are now a number of organized groups staunchly opposed to mandated vaccinations. They say they're not opposed to vaccination, but contend that not all vaccines are equally safe and effective. They argue that parents should be able to make choices for their families.

Following measles outbreaks during the 1970s, states began to mandate vaccines for children attending public schools. Those laws faced pushback as well. In the end, all but two states – Mississippi and West Virginia – allowed for religious or philosophic exemptions.

Over the past few years, with cases of infectious diseases such as measles on the rise, several more states have ended most exemptions. That has led to highly contentious hearings attracting hundreds of demonstrators.

During the pandemic, groups opposed to mandatory vaccinations have grown larger followings. But overall support for vaccines remains high. A Pew Research Center poll last year found that 88% of adults believe the benefits of the MMR vaccine outweigh the risk.

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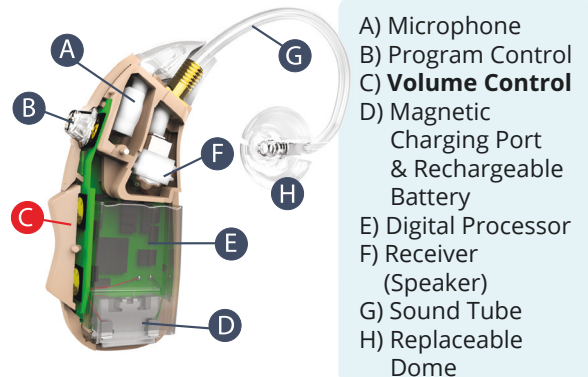
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Amid the chaos of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Honolulu Legionnaires mobilized and organized civilians to help put out fires. Photo courtesy Hawaii War Records Depository, University of Hawaii at Manoa Library

'Yes sir, this is war'

Hawaii vice commander reported the scene on Dec. 7, 1941, and the surreal days that followed.

American Legion Department of Hawaii Vice Commander A.A. Kempa submitted to National Headquarters a firsthand account of the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that propelled the United States into World War II. The account, from his diary, appeared in the January 1942 National Legionnaire newspaper, an edition loaded with calls to wartime action.

The publication, printed just weeks after the attack, laid out plans for American Legion posts to support the war effort – emphatically, to assist with draft registration, civil defense and homefront military labor – along with support for air and sea operations.

Kempa's message, summarized on **legion.org** in December 2019, describes the confusion, reaction and implementation of martial law in the immediate aftermath of the bombing. Following is his entire account.

My wife and I were awakened about 7:30 by a far-away rumble of gunfire. We paid little attention to this other than thinking, "How strange for the Navy to hold target practice at this hour on Sunday morning." As I mulled over this, I thought to myself, "Lahaina Roads is a hundred miles distant – too far to hear even the biggest salvos – and the restless channel between Oahu and Molokai is no place for target practice. Surely the Navy would not hold target practice near Honolulu without previous warning." Gradually the far-away rumble became a roar with frequent sharp explosions as if from rapid-fire cannons.

Suddenly we heard a shell with its strange, dying whistle pass through the air. Then I said to my wife, "Maud, this is not maneuvers." I sprang out of bed and rushed to the radio. Sure enough,

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it was war! The announcer kept shouting in a nervous, breathless voice, “Pearl Harbor is being bombed. This is war, no fooling – this is not maneuvers – it is the real McCoy.” Bob (our 17-year-old son) got out my Russian field glasses (which, by the way, had once before served me on a like occasion as the Japanese pulled their sudden, unprovoked attack on Vladivostok on April 4, 1920).

* * *

At 10:45, the radio was calling all Legionnaires to assemble at once at their clubhouse on McCully Street. I bade my wife and family goodbye and backed the car out into the street. Just as I did there was a terrific explosion nearby. It seemed only a block away. I’ll admit that last one made me shaky. But I kept going, since I knew my duty was with the Legionnaires – bombs or no bombs. As I crossed King Street, another terrific explosion a few blocks to my left. Then I saw two great fires only several blocks away. One of them was the Lunalilo School. I kept going until I reached the clubhouse at the Ala Wai. There I helped organize a detail of 40 men to fight the nearby fires. We jumped upon the running boards of several cars and some ran to the school. Others ran to the corner of King and McCully, where the stores were burning rapidly.

From the corner drug store they carried a little girl with legs badly mangled. I think she was Japanese-American. I was told she died. There was no fire apparatus in sight. A high wind carried the flames to the rear and *ewa* (west) side of the stores. The gang got to work and carried every bit of furniture – bag and baggage – from several houses. As soon as we would get one house empty, the roof would be in flames. After 20 minutes of this, one piece of fire apparatus came screaming down King Street. A nearby water main was spouting water 50 feet into the air. At least two-thirds of the block burned to the ground. The school building was saved, except for the roof and one wing.

So that was the start of that fateful Sunday for me and the 15 hours that followed – filled with anxiety and a determination to be of utmost service in a situation where for the early

moments all of us seemed as helpless children, nervously pacing about waiting for orders that did not come. Some of us went out into the streets and did what we could to help the traffic, assist the police (in reassuring) the frightened Oriental women and children, and organize small details of Legionnaires for hurry-up calls.

I was assigned as an aide to the coordinator of civilian defense, Mr. Thomas Walker. My shift was from 6 a.m. to noon. After that, I went to my job at the “Y.”

Six Legionnaires stayed on this job for 10 days – day and night – and we had many strange duties to perform, ranging from orderly, standing long hours at the coordinator’s door, to taking care of panicky men and women. That first night, I went out for two hours trying to trace blinking lights in the Kakaako district. It was a dark, drizzling night. Time and again, we were challenged by soldiers or startled by the sudden crack of a rifle. The rattle of machine guns near Kewalo Basin made us turn around and hasten to the city hall, where I arrived at 12:30 a.m. The rumor spread that the Japanese were trying to make a forced landing at Kewalo Basin. This proved false. Dizzy rumors filled the air. In fact, the fear stories and rumors of the past two weeks have been of such a quality and intensity that our fair city has easily won the title of “undefeated rumor town of the USA.”

* * *

But let me get back to Sunday. After 15 hours of duty, I returned home, weary, headachy, pains in my legs and too tired to sleep. I went to bed at 1:30 a.m. All night, I tossed and ached – no sleep for me or for Honolulu that first night. I was proud to learn that Bob did not hold back. Chafing at the bit, he joined a group of high school boys as ambulance drivers. He was on duty for 48 hours without rest. These boys have guts and endurance when under stress and can take it. Bob served with this group all week and after that joined a gang of laborers at Wheeler Field. Maud volunteered her services as a nurse for six hours a day, but they did not call her, except to be registered and fingerprinted.

The losses have been great enough to shock all of us, and life for every man, woman and child in

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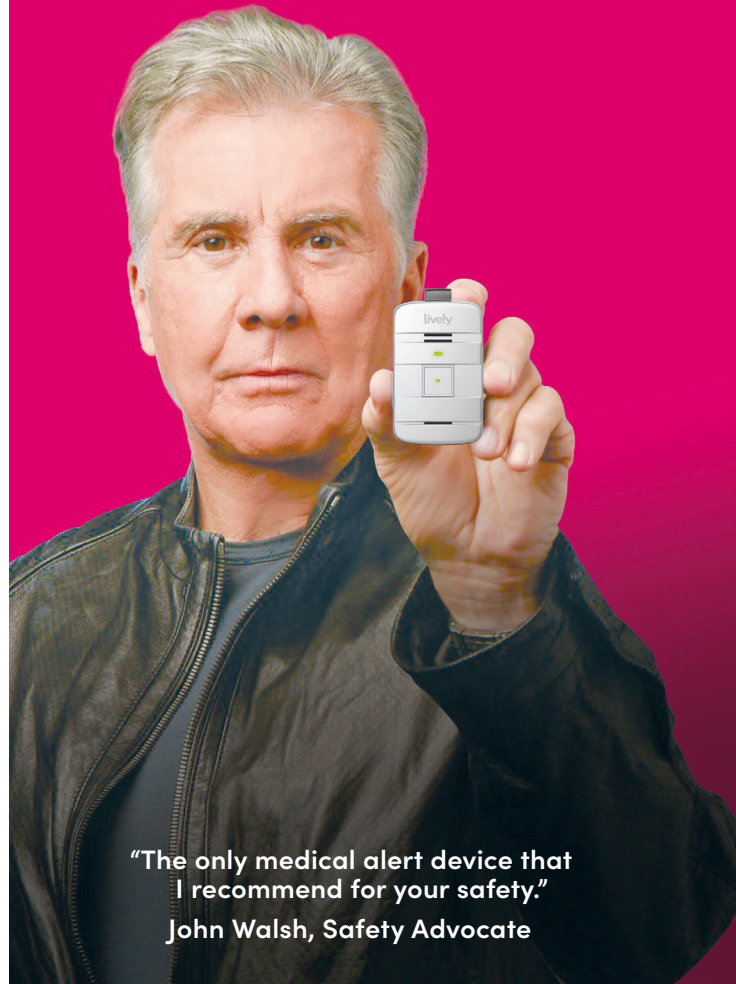
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these beautiful islands is now different. There is a determination that this shall never happen again to us – for we shall give our all to prevent it. The public morale is the finest I have ever seen in a like crisis. Everybody wants to serve and help the other fellow – help defend our land – help to relieve the homeless and suffering – sharing to the limit with the evacuees. Hundreds of homes have been opened to the evacuees. The city is organized for total defense. And I am sure our armed forces are ready for any eventuality.

* * *

Honolulu is now an armed camp. I have never seen an event change the lives of all the people of a city as quickly as did this attack. Schools are closed. Hospitals, school buildings, offices, city hall, Iolani Palace, parks, YMCAs, restaurants, buses, cars, homes, factories, ships, airlines, radio stations, newspapers, auditoriums, banks, business firms, garages, gas stations, beaches, churches, luncheon clubs, athletic organizations, civil laws, jails, policemen, doctors, dentists, lawyers, judges, executives and thousands of workmen have all suddenly been changed from the ordinary routine of peace to that of total defense.

Public buildings, streets, big utilities and plantations and every place vital to defense now are armed forts, guarded with steel-helmeted soldiers and machine guns. Sandbags are piled high in front of doorways and windows of important buildings, plate-glass windows downtown in every store are crisscrossed with tape; zigzag trenches and bomb shelters have been dug in front of the public library, the Palace grounds, in parks, playgrounds and nearly every open space. Householders are seen every evening and Sundays digging bomb shelters in front yards.

* * *

Martial law is in force and M-Day is here. The commanding general of the Army is now the military governor. The courts have been taken over by the Provost-Marshall. Saloons are closed – beer and liquor banned, and crime has fallen to a low mark. Many aliens and suspects have been rounded up. Food, gas, auto parts, radios,

flashlights, firearms “and various defense materials are rationed and controlled.

The long, lonesome nights seemed hideous the first week, but now we are getting used to it. The city is a total blackout at night. Only those on defense jobs are allowed on the streets after dark. Autos creep along blacked out. Failure to halt or comply with a sentry’s challenge at night results in death. Yes sir, this is war, and we now find ourselves getting used to it at the end of two weeks.

There has been some evidence of racial hatred, but more are the stories of unity and loyalty and sacrifice – especially on the part of Oahu’s young Americans of Japanese parentage. Stirring tales of valor and all devotion to American ideals on the part of all races appear in the papers every day. The valor and bravery of our sailors and airmen who fought off the attackers was marvelous. And many civilians of all races here have made themselves heroes.

* * *

Just as the people of these fair islands have been shocked and sorely tried by these heavy days and weeks – so, too, we hope that you who are back there in the brighter side of the U.S. will be shocked out of all complacency and false security. We have now entered a new era of life. We need to be shocked out of our lethargic way. From now on, we must roll up our sleeves and stand together – to work and fight for the complete annihilation of this hellish totalitarianism and for a better world. The masses of America must be awakened now. The 200,000 civilians and the thousands of our forces who watched the scene I have tried to describe – yea, the thousands of dead who fought off the attackers or died without a chance under the most hellish circumstances ever inflicted upon American soil – all, I am certain, raise up their voices and cry out to you – “Wake Up, America!” 🌿

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America's next national treasure

The National Medal of Honor Museum will inspire and teach.

BY PATRICK H. BRADY

The United States – indeed, the world – would be less free today were it not for America's nobility, our veterans. It would also be less prosperous. Often, our warriors' magnificent conduct on the battlefield overshadows their impressive contributions to the bounty that is America.

Once home, GIs shook themselves free of the nightmare of war and built the American dream based on fundamental values they learned in combat: courage, sacrifice, patriotism. They established veterans organizations to protect and care for their brothers and sisters in arms – including The American Legion, which ushered into law the GI Bill that educated the greatest generation, which in turn built the greatest nation on the planet. It is hard to separate the flourishing America of today from the hard work of those who served in uniform.

Few have more invested in America, and love it more, than our veterans. Naturally, they are concerned by certain trends, including a marked decline in youth who say they are proud to be Americans. Only one in six Americans can pass a

basic quiz on U.S. history, and one in seven believe the United States started World War II by bombing Japan. Equally alarming is a growing infatuation with socialism.

Veterans are especially well equipped to address these problems. They believe that life has no meaning unless lived for the benefit of future generations, and that they did not do America a favor by their service and sacrifice. Rather, God did them a favor by allowing them to be born in this great nation. These core beliefs, along with their deep affection for America, make veterans ideal teachers and role models for youth greatly in need of patriotic invigoration.

A common refrain among disadvantaged students is that teachers and other adults haven't been in their shoes. That may be true in some cases, but not for veterans. They've been in these kids' places, and then some. The best learning happens in the company of those who do more than tell or explain. Veterans have witnessed firsthand the evils of dictatorships, communism and terrorism. Our military has been called the schoolhouse of America, and our veterans have

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3,527 Total Medals of Honor awarded
66 Living recipients
19 Recipients honored twice
1 Medal awarded to a woman, Mary Edwards Walker
2,458 Medals awarded to members of the Army
749 Medals awarded to members of the Navy
300 Medals awarded to members of the Marine Corps
19 Medals awarded to members of the Air Force
1 Medal awarded to a member of the Coast Guard

graduated with honors. They are most qualified to sound the alarm about such threats.

In fact, many veterans are doing just that through various programs and in schools across the country. But there are difficulties in teaching values and patriotism in many classrooms. It may be that monuments, museums and shrines are the best way today to instill values.

With that in mind, some of our most honored veterans are building in Arlington, Texas, what's been called "America's next national treasure," the National Medal of Honor Museum (NMOHM). It will be a vault for the values at the roots of America, honoring Medal of Honor recipients while inspiring future leaders and fostering patriotism.

Architect Rafael Viñoly's design is as awesome as the deeds of those heroes enshrined within. NMOHM will be unlike any other museum, encompassing all of America's wars and service branches, from the Civil War to today.

Its galleries will be organized according to the fruits and disasters of warfare, a thematic approach that weaves individual stories of Medal of Honor recipients from different eras, conflicts and branches into a bigger story about the timeless nature and common character values associated with their actions. In each gallery, visitors will learn how the heroism of one generation inspired that of the next.

On Dec. 4, 1950, Thomas Hudner intentionally crash-landed his Corsair behind enemy lines in the frozen tundra of the Chosin Reservoir to rescue wingman Jesse Brown, the first Black naval aviator. And on March 10, 1966, Bernard Fisher risked a crash landing to rescue a fellow pilot who had been shot down in the A Shau Valley, behind enemy lines. Overhead at the time, and directing the rescue, were two pilots involved in a similar rescue in World War II.

Warriors fight best when they know that not

only will their medical needs be met but their spiritual needs, too. No country does both like America. In NMOHM's "Coming to the Rescue" Gallery, visitors will learn of the incredible risks taken and sacrifices made by U.S. servicemembers for their comrades and so many others. Dustoff in Vietnam rescued nearly 1 million men, women and children, both enemy and friendly. The combat conditions and survival rates were unprecedented in the history of warfare.

Some of our greatest generals, including George Washington and George Patton, believed prayer was a combat multiplier. Washington founded the Chaplain Corps immediately after he set up his army. More than 400 military chaplains have died in the line of duty. Nine have earned the Medal of Honor. The NMOHM will have a special space to honor these men of God, two of whom are candidates for sainthood.

In addition, the NMOHM will host public programs and events featuring living Medal of Honor recipients, noted authors, veterans and experts in every field. Thanks to digital magic, future generations will be able to ask questions to long-dead heroes and view the sites of their valorous actions in combat. And the NMOHM's Leadership Institute will offer meaningful programs for K-12 teachers, students and adult professional leadership segments.

People will not fight for that which they do not love, and it is difficult to love what you know little about. Our dismal state of patriotism represents a black hole in our education system. This museum helps fill that hole, inspiring and educating youth on the splendor of America – why it is worth preserving, and why it's worth fighting for. 🌿

Patrick H. Brady is a retired Army major general, Medal of Honor recipient, member of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee from 2013 to 2019 and former chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance.

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LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOFFER
ART: GARY MARTIN
COLOR: MARCHS ESKOW

AT THE ST. LOUIS CAUCHS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MAY 8-10, 1919, AN EMBLEM COMMITTEE IS FORMED TO RECOMMEND INSIGNIA OPTIONS FOR THE FAST-GROWING NEW ORGANIZATION OF GREAT WAR VETERANS.

A CONTEST IS CONCEIVED TO PRODUCE "TEN SUITABLE DESIGNS, PLACED IN ORDER OF MERIT ... THE FINAL CHOICE OF THE EMBLEM SHALL BE MADE BY THE CONVENTION IN SUCH MANNER AS IT SHALL SEE FIT."

CASH PRIZES, NOT TO EXCEED \$100 IN ALL, ARE AUTHORIZED FOR THE TOP FOUR SELECTIONS.

ONE SUBMISSION COMES FROM A.E. TEMPLETON OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLO., THAT INCLUDES FLAGS OF THE GREAT WAR'S FIVE ALLIED NATIONS.

THE LEGION'S ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE SOON REALIZES THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. MEMBERS WANT BUTTONS. POST COMMANDERS WANT SIGNS FOR THEIR BUILDINGS. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT MATERIALS NEED BRANDING.

THE CONTEST IS CALLED OFF.

THE COMMITTEE SELECTS A TEMPORARY DESIGN, DRAWN BY ERIC FISHER WOOD, FOUNDING SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, WHO FILES AN INITIAL PATENT APPLICATION AUG. 23.

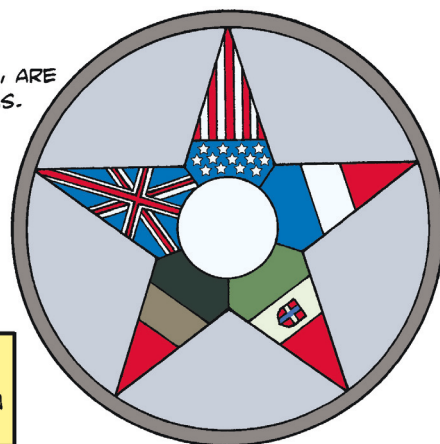
WOOD, AN ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT IN PARIS WHEN THE GREAT WAR BEGAN, HAD SERVED IN THE AMERICAN AMBULANCE CORPS, ALSO WITH THE BRITISH ARMY AND LATER AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE U.S. ARMY'S 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

HE WAS WOUNDED TWICE AND CAME OUT OF THE WAR A LIEUTENANT COLONEL

THE AUG. 1, 1919, **AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY** MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES THE NEW INSIGNIA, SOON TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE FORM OF UNENAMELED METAL BUTTONS, 25 CENTS EACH.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS CONVERTS THE EMBLEM DESIGN FROM TEMPORARY TO PERMANENT.

ON DEC. 9, 1919, WOOD'S SLIGHTLY MODIFIED "EMBLEM-BUTTON" DESIGN IS LEGALLY PATENTED, AND THE LEGION FOUNDER ASSIGNS ALL USE RIGHTS TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE SUM OF \$1.



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it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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"It's going to be a long time before we stop producing veterans because we're not a world at peace. It's not a bad dream to have. It's a dream I have as a soldier that one day peace will come."

Colin Powell, in a November 1999 interview with *The American Legion Magazine*. The retired general and statesman died Oct. 18 at 84, due to complications from COVID-19. A 35-year Army veteran, Powell was the first Black to serve as national security adviser, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and secretary of state.

- Son of Jamaican immigrants, grew up in Harlem and the South Bronx in New York City
- Joined the Army through ROTC, served two combat tours in Vietnam (1962-1963, 1968-1969)
- Architect of Panama invasion (1989) and Desert Shield and Storm operations (1990-1991)
- Life member of American Legion Post 310 in San Diego
- Chaired America's Promise, an alliance of civic and community groups and individuals dedicated to improving the lives of young people
- Books include *"My American Journey"* (1995, with Joseph Persico) and *"It Worked For Me: In Life and Leadership"* (2012, with Tony Koltz)

'The bravest man I ever knew'

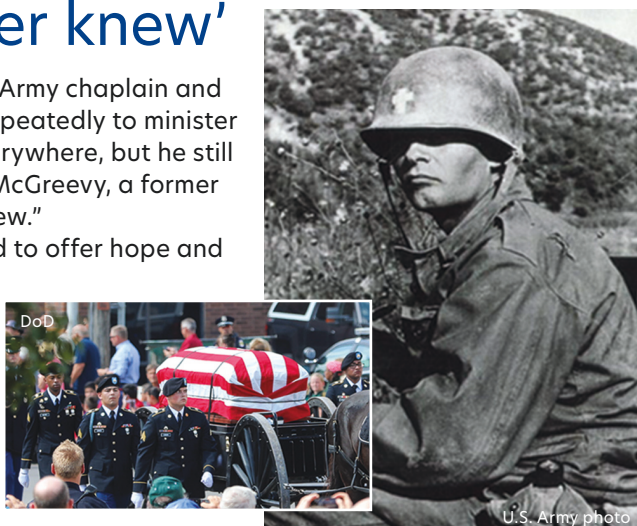
Sent to the front lines as the Korean War began, Army chaplain and Roman Catholic priest Emil Kapaun risked his life repeatedly to minister to and assist the wounded. "Bullets were flying everywhere, but he still went out and took care of the dying," said Robert McGreevy, a former prisoner of war. "He was the bravest man I ever knew."

Captured in the winter of 1950, Kapaun continued to offer hope and comfort to his fellow soldiers, even giving up his daily rations to keep others alive. His imitation of Christ "reached its fulfillment on May 23, 1951, the day of his personal Calvary, in a dark and lonely place, giving all he had for others," said Bishop Carl Kemme at a funeral Mass for Kapaun in Wichita, Kan., on Sept. 29.

Survivors of Prison Camp No. 5 have long told stories of the chaplain's selfless acts, and in 2013 he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. In March, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Kapaun's remains had been positively identified as part of a program to disinter unknown Korean War dead and would be returned to his family.

The chaplain's homecoming may expedite his cause for sainthood, which officially began in 2008. "I just pray every day it happens in my lifetime," McGreevy said. "He was God's man."

Sources: DPAA, Catholic Diocese of Wichita



A horse-drawn caisson carries Father Emil Kapaun to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kan., on Sept. 29. Lost for nearly 70 years, the Army chaplain's remains are now interred in a marble crypt there.

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What makes them iconic? The Morgan Silver Dollar is the legendary coin that built the Wild West. It exemplifies the American spirit like few other coins, and was created using silver mined from the famous Comstock Lode in Nevada. In fact, when travelers approached the mountains around the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada in the 1850s, they were startled to see the hills shining in the sunlight like a mirror. A mirage caused by weary eyes?

No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

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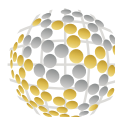
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American Legion honors service academy grads

Earlier this year, The American Legion awarded its annual prizes to graduates of the five military service academies. Several ceremonies were closed to outside guests, precluding the attendance of the Legion's national vice commanders.

2nd Lt. Robert B. Gansrow *Holtsville, N.Y.*

Gansrow received the American Legion award for the highest proficiency in all academic subjects at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. National Vice Commander Rob Liebenow presented the award.

Ens. Amanda Catherine Hall *Edmond, Okla.*

Hall received the American Legion award for national security at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

2nd Lt. Mark H. Jaskot *Burke, Va.*

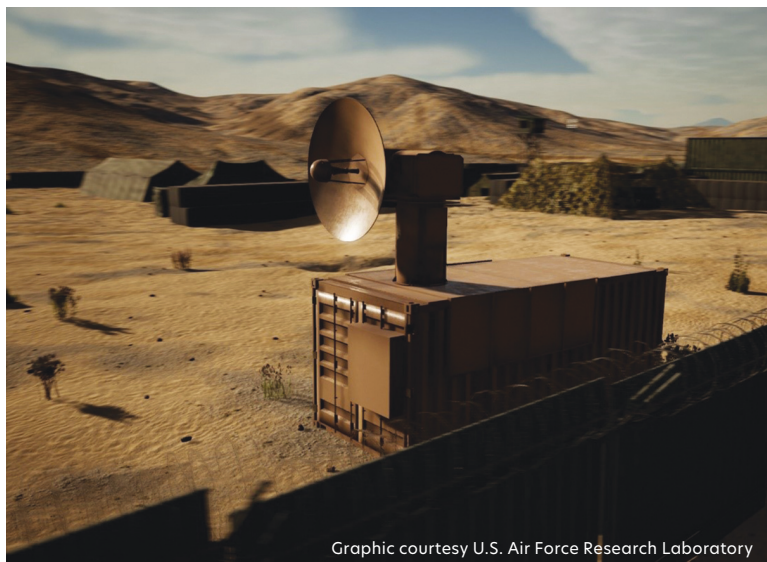
Jaskot received the American Legion award for outstanding achievement in chemistry at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Ens. Kaitlyn Mooney *Manahawkin, N.J.*

Mooney received the American Legion award for athletics at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach presented the award.

Ens. William "Quinn" O'Loane *Prospect, Ky.*

O'Loane received the American Legion award for the highest marks in English, history and government at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.



Graphic courtesy U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory

THOR takes down drones

The Air Force has unveiled a new defense system capable of taking out hundreds of drones with a single jolt of energy.

As the *Washington Examiner* reports, the Tactical High Power Operational Responder (THOR) uses a beam of microwave energy capable of scrambling the electronic brains inside scores of drones at once.

"When THOR identifies a target, it shoots a beam of microwaves in less than a second, providing an instant effect on the drones," the *Examiner* reports. "The system is different from a laser, which shoots a beam capable of destroying one drone ... instead, THOR's utilization of high-powered microwaves allows it to scuttle swarms of unmanned aerial systems."

"THOR completely stows in a 20-foot shipping container, which can easily be transported in a C-130," according to an Air Force Research Lab video. "The system can be set up by as few as two people within three hours, and operates from ground power."

Each THOR system costs around \$10 million to develop.

Fewer than 200 U.S.-registered oceangoing commercial ships today

44,000 Global total of oceangoing commercial ships today

1% Total U.S. trade transported by U.S.-registered ships today

33% Total global trade transported by the U.S. Merchant Marine in 1951

Sources: Loren Thompson/*Forbes*

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Photo by Ben Mikesell

Dillard urges Buddy Checks on, around Veterans Day

In remarks to the National Executive Committee on Oct. 5 in Indianapolis, American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard called on posts, districts and departments to conduct Buddy Checks on and around Veterans Day.

"We must reach out to our Afghanistan veterans, who are experiencing a whole range of emotions due to recent events," Dillard said. "We need to ensure they are not isolated and that they know they have a home and friends in our American Legion Family. Buddy Checks are for all veterans, but suicide prevention is perhaps the greatest benefit that can come from a Buddy Check."

To support that effort, Dillard asked NEC members to "memorize, publicize and emphasize" the Veteran Crisis Line number, **1-800-273-8255 (press 1)**. Veterans and their supporters can also text **838255** or chat online at **veteranscrisisline.net/chat**.

The commander also spoke about attending the Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta on Sept. 21 in Cleveland, where the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was a primary sponsor of the veterans rowing race. A \$32,000

OCW grant covered the sponsorship, boat, oars, rack and a trophy to be presented to each year's winning veterans team.

"You should have seen the joy in the hearts of these young men and women and the gratitude they expressed to The American Legion," Dillard said. "Some of the rowers are blind. Some are amputees. Others have some of the invisible wounds of war we are all familiar with."

Through American Legion programs like OCW, he continued, "we prove time and again that we are veterans strengthening America."

\$13,800+

Amount in donations presented for American Legion programs during the NEC's Fall Meetings, by the American Legion Auxiliary, NEC members, leadership and departments

SELECTED RESOLUTIONS OF THE FALL MEETINGS

Internal Affairs

8 Supports National Global War on Terrorism Memorial on National Mall

National Security

3 Increasing slavery/human trafficking prevention and awareness

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

20 Supports VA Home and Community-Based Services program, veterans' choice to age in place

21 Urges Congress to align CHAMPVA eligibility with TRICARE, private insurance plans

Veterans Employment & Education

12 Supports legislative policies that allocate funding for small-business cybersecurity protection

14 Supports boosting Work Opportunity Tax Credit to 50% for first \$10,000 of wages through 2023

Read all 22 resolutions: legion.org/archive

First American Legion National Headquarters gets historical sign

On Oct. 6, National Commander Paul E. Dillard unveiled a new Indiana Historical Marker Bureau sign at the original national headquarters of The American Legion, which now serves as a high-tech "one-stop shop" providing services for Hoosier veterans and their families.

After national Legion operations moved across the American Legion Mall to 700 N. Pennsylvania St. in 1950, the Department of Indiana and American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters were based at the 777 building. It was placed on the National Historic Landmarks Registry in 1994 and continued to serve as home to the department until 2014.



Photo by Ben Mikesell

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THE JOB FRONT BY WENDY S. ENELOW

Three job-search trends to watch in 2022

Job seekers often ask me about the latest trends, so I'm sharing three that are most critical to your successful search.

Vaccination status This is the most rapidly evolving job search trend. Do you include your positive vaccination status in your résumé and LinkedIn profile? Do you want to share that information? Do companies want to know? Will it give you an edge? Consider these details published by **MarketWatch.com** in a recent post:

- A survey of 950+ large U.S. employers found that 21% had some type of vaccine requirement by summer 2021, 9% higher than in the spring.
- By the end of August 2021, the share of job postings per million on **Indeed.com** requiring vaccinations rose 242% from one month prior.
- Delta Air Lines requires that all new hires be fully vaccinated, just one example of many blue-chip companies making vaccination status key in the hiring process.

Video Although video already had a commanding presence, it's become the norm during the pandemic. In addition to preparing for your interview, you'll need to manage all the logistics, which are just as important. You want a professional-looking space, good lighting, good angle and a reliable internet connection. Video interviews are powerful. If you can present yourself well and make a meaningful connection, it can propel your candidacy.

LinkedIn Why is a 20-year-old company on trend? LinkedIn is dedicated to deepening the user experience through constant enhancements. Beyond having a content-rich profile yourself, use other LinkedIn tools to help in your search:

- Showcase your work by uploading your résumé and other documents, posts, images, graphics, video and more.
- Join LinkedIn groups whose members are in industries and professions you are targeting. This is a great way to nurture relationships and identify job opportunities.

A recruiter once told me, "If you're not on LinkedIn, you don't exist." Powerful words.

Wendy Enelow is a master résumé writer, and the author of "Expert Résumé & LinkedIn Profiles for Managers & Executives" and other titles.

wendy@wendyenelow.com

NEW POSTS

Post 147, Payson, Ariz.

Chartered Sept. 8 (15 members)

Post University American Legion Family/Virtual Post 211, Connecticut

Chartered July 29 (15 members)

Post 414, Pahokee, Fla.

Chartered July 29 (10 members)

Post 350, Bedford, Ohio

Chartered July 29 (15 members)

Post 725, Ashland, Ala.

Chartered Feb. 28 (15 members)

Umo Ho Post 139, Macy, Neb.

Chartered Feb. 28 (10 members)

Luthi-Gillespie-Whitehead Post 93, Commerce, Ga. Chartered Dec. 31 (15 members)

Camp Sevier, 30th Infantry Post 271, Mauldin, S.C. Chartered Dec. 17 (22 members)

Dwight Amos Breemer Post 292, Somerville, Tenn. Chartered Dec. 17 (15 members)

Brian Bland Post 307, Gillette College, Gillette, Wyo. Chartered Dec. 8 (15 members)

MY GI BILL VETERANS & EDUCATION BY VALERIE HEFFNER

VA Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

Q: *I am a retired Army veteran of 20 years and VA-rated 100% permanently and totally (P&T) disabled. My wife wants to enroll in school to become a nurse, but due to my disability, she will not be able to focus on school full-time. Is there a VA educational program for which she'd qualify?*

A: Your wife may qualify for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), Chapter 35. This benefit allows dependents to complete an education program within 10 years from the time the veteran was declared 100% P&T disabled. VA beneficiaries may receive benefits for 36 months if attending full-time, or 72 months half-time. The monthly housing allowance will offset the cost of tuition, fees, books and supplies. Dependents must apply online at www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage. Prospective students must have their military sponsor's information to complete the application.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. askvalerie@legion.org



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Inflation and your investments

Last month, I offered several strategies to inflation-proof your finances. Rising prices remain in the headlines, so as we wrap up 2021 let's look specifically at investments.

Here are several ideas as you consider incorporating inflation-friendly investments into your portfolio:

Stocks The track record speaks for itself. Large U.S. stocks have outpaced inflation over the past 100 years by roughly 7% per year. Dig a little deeper, and you may want to check out stocks that perform well in an inflationary environment. Food, health care, energy and building materials stocks have typically fared well. Of course, broad-based indices likely make this approach easier, less expensive and more manageable.

Treasury inflation-protected securities (TIPS)

TIPS are issued by the U.S. government and are designed to keep pace with inflation. In practice, the price of these bonds increases with inflation, so they don't lose purchasing power. While the fixed interest rate stays the same over the life of the bond, the value to which it is applied would increase in an inflationary environment. They can be purchased directly through the Treasury at **treasurydirect.gov**. At maturity, the principal amount of the bond is guaranteed by the U.S. government. The inflation adjustments to the principal amount of the bond are taxable income, so holding them in a retirement account would allow you to avoid "phantom income."

I-Bonds Series I savings bonds are not your grandma's savings bonds. They come with a return based on a combination of a fixed rate that stays the same for the 30-year life of the bond, and an inflation rate that is reset twice a year. Unfortunately, there's a maximum purchase of \$10,000 per year, but they can be a solid solution to address inflation within your portfolio.

Commodities and real-estate investments As prices rise, it would make sense that you could see increased prices across all sorts of raw materials, precious metals and, yes, real estate. Own a rental with a fixed-rate loan, and the principal and interest component of your rental expense is locked in. As a bonus, rental income may inflate.

Beware the bond teeter-totter The fact that bond values decline as interest rates rise could make longer-term, fixed-rate bond investments particularly vulnerable unless you plan to hold the bonds until maturity. On the other hand, fluctuating or adjustable-rate, fixed-income investments may fare relatively better.

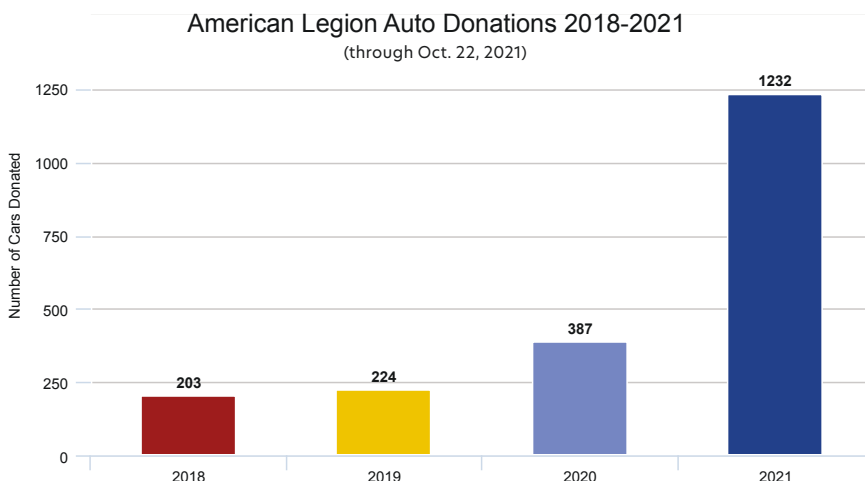
While there are no guarantees in the investment arena, understanding the playing field and environment - in this case, inflation - can help you map out a strategy that works in the context of your individual situation.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. legion.org/usaa

American Legion auto donations take off in 2021

Tax-deductible automobile donations to help The American Legion assist disabled veterans, children and military families in need soared in 2021. Through mid-October, 1,232 vehicles were donated, raising \$915,100 for American Legion programs and services - exceeding the number of donations of the previous three years combined.

To schedule a free, convenient pickup date for an automobile, visit legion.org/donate/auto or call **844-453-4466**.



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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information online at legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are free.

Notices will remain online until the final day of the reunion. Upon submission, allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing twice a year.**

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206** or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are free.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.**

Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your American Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

AeroMed Evac Assn, San Antonio, 3/23-27, David Schill, (956) 704-3670, david.schill@amea.us

ARMY

All Korea Veterans, Pigeon Forge, TN, 8/5-7, Chris Murphy, (828) 216-4347, koreaveterans@gmail.com; **Charlie Co 2/8 Mech Inf 4th Inf Div (1969-1970)**, Las Vegas, 5/15-19, Guy Smith, (805) 598-7000, guysmith2099@gmail.com; **U.S. Army Support, Thailand Assn (USARSUPTHAI)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 6/30-7/3, Joe Wilson, (719) 310-3558, jjwilsonjr@yahoo.com

JOINT

Khe Sanh Assn, Sparks, NV, 10/23-30, Russell Turner, (636) 282-2263, rkt88@prodigy.net; **Missile Air Defense Artillery Gathering (Army & Marine Corps)**, Helen, GA, 5/4-7, Calvin Bridges, woodhouse1@yahoo.com; **Pleiku AB Assn**, Rehoboth Beach, DE, 5/8-12, Ron Chromulak, (412) 515-7247

MARINES

Golf Co 2nd Bn 5th Mar (1993-1996), Cleveland, WI, 7/16, Jacklyn Miller, (209) 740-9049, blockgolf25reunion@gmail.com; **I-3-7 Mar**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/27-30, Dennis Deibert, (717) 652-1695, dennisdeibert8901@comcast.net

NAVY

Cogswell DD 651, Orlando, FL, 6/14-17, George Overman, (760) 889-2216, secretary@usscogswell.com; **Conservar ARS 39**, Nashville, TN, 4/27-5/1, Dale Hower, (619) 449-4499, dcwoodworking1@yahoo.com; **Illustrator Draftsman (All Units & Ships)**, Melbourne, FL, 3/17-20, Allen Johnstad, (321) 914-3552, mildlywildal@yahoo.com; **Lawrence DDG 4 & DD 250**, Nashville, TN, 4/27-5/1, Craig Bernat, (814) 322-4150, dguts@usslawrence.com; **Navy Postal Clerks Assn**, Harrisburg/Hersey, PA, 4/24-28, Alan Hass, (717) 226-1595, hassommo1@aol.com; **NMCB-40**, Ventura County, CA, 3/30-4/3, Bruce Cheek, (563) 349-4129, seabee40@cseldridge.com; **NSA Da Nang, Vietnam**, Clarksville, IN, 4/4-10, Bernie Uhrinek, (724) 353-9627; **RTC Orlando**, Kissimmee, FL, 10/11-16, Renata Marie, (407) 630-8940, rtcorlandoreunion@gmail.com; **Rupertus DD 851**, Seattle, 4/27-30, Alan Lewis, (914) 443-5496, alewis@hvc.rr.com; **Wahoo SS 565**, Pensacola, FL, 4/27-5/1, Steve Ploechelmann, (651) 338-6043, ploechs@gmail.com; **Wallace L. Lind DD 703**, Mobile, AL, 3/24-28, Ed Bauscher, (502) 876-2137, eb2vette@aol.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 59, ME: Basil Leighton, William A. Redding

Post 21, MI: Robert C. Tulppo

Post 795, PA: Robert A. Sass, Kenneth J. Vilcko

IN SEARCH OF

1st Inf Div Mil Intel Det (Di An, Vietnam, 1966-1967), Jerry Burns, (423) 791-3115, gbsac66@gmail.com

2-28th Inf 1st Inf Div Med Plt Sect Sgt (Vietnam, 1969-1970), Quincy Francis, 6304 Saint John Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701

4th Finance Sect (Camp Red Cloud, Korea, 1968), Arthur Perry, (727) 857-3920, artperrybhs63@yahoo.com

110th Finance Sect (Machinato-Okinawa, 1968-1969), Arthur Perry, (727) 857-3920, artperrybhs63@yahoo.com

383rd QM Det Aerial Supply (1965-1966), John "Skungo" Richardson, (504) 912-2500, jer1945jer@hotmail.com

575th Trans Co (Caserma Carlo Ederle, Vicenza, Italy), Fred Dintino, (215) 643-7970, fdintino@verizon.net

A Co 1-504th Bn 82nd Abn Div (Dominican Republic, 1965), Guy Sapp, (775) 392-1836, chris-guy@comcast.net

Army Finance School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Finance Procedures Course No. 4 (Aug-Sept 1965), John Haggard, (231) 342-2905, samhunts59@yahoo.com

Charlie Co 2/8th Mech Inf 4th Inf Div (1969-1970), Guy Smith, (805) 598-7000, guy2099@gmail.com

COMFAIRWESTPAC (NAS Atsugi, Japan, 1966-1967), Don Moran, (224) 585-6180, djmoran205@yahoo.com

E Co 2nd Bn 27th Inf Rgt 25th Inf Div (1951), James Bolan, 3020 Vaessen Court, Honolulu, HI 96818

NSAD Binh Thuy, Vietnam, Commissary (Oct 1969-Mar 1972), Jim Stoltzman, 24990 Itasca Ave., Forest Lake, MN 55025

SAC SARPF (Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam), John Lenhardt, (618) 419-1010, vfwjal@hotmail.com

TAPS

William C. Bingham, Dept. of Arizona. Dept. Cmdr. 1992-1993, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1996-2000, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1996-1999, Nat'l Distinguished Guests

Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1982-1996 and 2000-2013, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1993-1996, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1999-2000 and Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cncl. Memb. 2013-2021.

Anthony G. DeNatale, Dept. of New York.

Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2016-2021 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2016.

Dennis M. "Mike" Duggan, Dept. of Maryland.

Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Consultant 2013-2021, Nat'l 50th Anniv. Vietnam Commemorative Cmte. Memb. 2013-2019, Nat'l 75th Anniv. of WWII Commemorative Cmte. Memb. 2016-2019 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2008-2013.

C. William Harris, Dept. of West Virginia. Dept. Cmdr. (honorary) 2014, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1979-2013 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2019.

Andrew W. Johnson Sr., Dept. of Hawaii. Dept.

Cmdr. 2005-2006, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2006-2007 and 2007-2013, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2006-2007 and 2007-2012, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 2005-2006, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 7 Memb. 2004-2005, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Dept. Chmn. 2006-2013, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 2001-2004 and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2012-2013.

Clifford E. Mann Sr., Dept. of Michigan. Dept. Cmdr. 1991-1992 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1990-1993.

Silas M. Noel, Dept. of Kentucky. Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1994-1995, Dept. Cmdr. 1984-1985, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Memb. 2000-2013, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1990-1993, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1998-2000, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1985-1989, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1989-1993, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1981-1989, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1989-1990 and Nat'l Media & Comm. Cmsn. Memb. 2013-2021.

David W. Wegener, Dept. of Wisconsin. Dept. Cmdr. 1998-1999 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1994-2009.

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b. Paid and/or requested circulation		
1. Paid/Requested outside-county subscriptions stated on Form 3541	1,675,728	1,673,307
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS paid distribution	4,201	4,135
4. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0
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d. Free distribution by mail		
1. Outside-county as stated on Form 3541	4,380	4,278
2. In-county as stated on Form 3541	0	0
3. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0
e. Free distribution outside the mail	0	0
f. Total Free distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	4,380	4,278
g. Total distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	1,684,309	1,681,720
h. Copies not distributed	616	622
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j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	99.74	99.75

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It's beginning to cost a lot like Christmas.

A COUPLE went holiday shopping, and the mall was packed. While walking through one of the stores, the wife looked around and didn't see her husband. Knowing they had a lot to do, she called his phone to ask him where he was.

In a quiet voice, he said, "Do you remember the jewelry store we went into a couple of years ago? You fell in love with that diamond necklace we couldn't afford, and I told you I'd get it for you one day?"

Touched, his wife smiled and said, "Yes, I do remember."

"Well, I'm in the bar next door."

MY FRIEND reviewed her son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One question read, "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with _____." His answer: "Receipts."

I DON'T celebrate Christmas, but I'm a devout eggnogstic.

LAST WEEK, I told my grandpa that Amazon is the best place for holiday shopping. He just called me from Brazil.

WHAT DID the third wise salesman say after his friends had already presented gold and frankincense? "But wait – there's myrrh!"

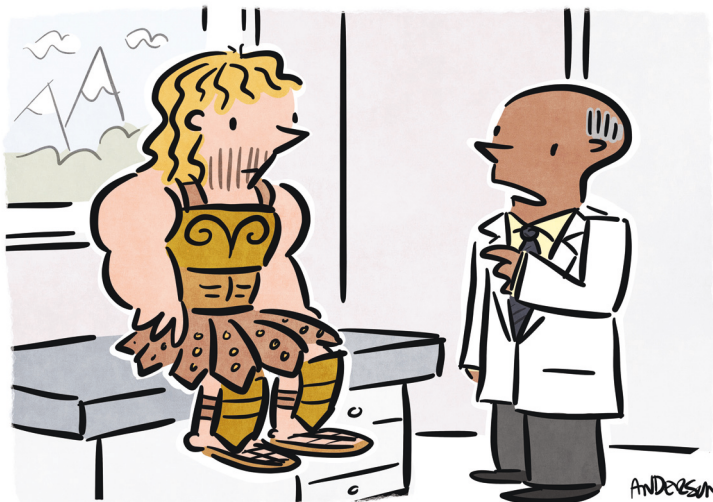
WHAT'S A TURKEY'S favorite song? "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas."

A GINGERBREAD MAN went to the doctor, complaining of a sore knee.

"A sore knee?" the doctor said. "Have you tried icing it?"

A CLEAN HOUSE is a sign of no internet connection.

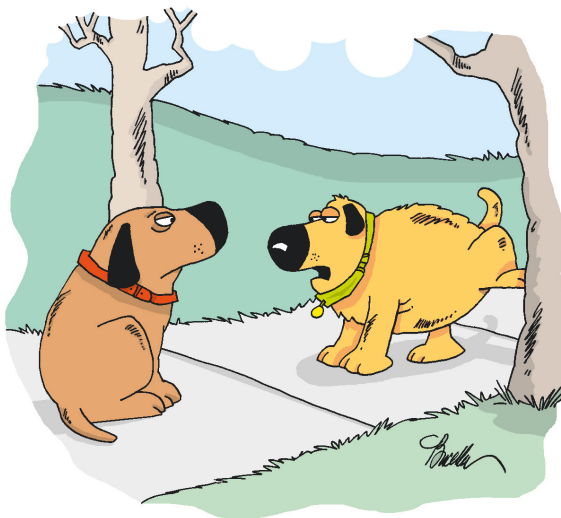
"PIE CAN'T COMPETE with cake. Put candles in a cake, it's a birthday cake. Put candles in a pie, and somebody's drunk in the kitchen." – *Jim Gaffigan*



"We don't need to run any tests. It's your heel, Achilles. It's always your heel."



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¹Commercial skip feature is available at varying times, starting the day after airing, for select primetime shows on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC recorded with PrimeTime Anytime.

²Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 and compatible mobile device. On Hopper Duo, there is no live TV streaming for DISH Anywhere.

Military and Veteran offer requires verification within 30 days of account activation to continue receiving monthly movie rental and Stars & Stripes Pack at no additional cost. Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 4/13/22. 2-year commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$69.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo for 1 TV. Available with 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$84.99 for AT120+, \$94.99 for AT200, \$104.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge of up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz and DISH Movie Pack unless you call to cancel. Other: All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. © 2021 DISH Network L.L.C. All rights reserved.

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